



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

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12 Mar 02

Dear Colleagues:


This week marks the six-month anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our Nation. For many of us, the events of 9/11 are so vivid that they are permanently etched in our minds. For our Sailors and Marines deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, the September attacks are as real as the gunfire that surrounds them daily.

Despite the passage of time since our first military personnel deployed to Afghanistan, the war continues and intensifies. Over the past few days, there have been numerous casualties resulting from hostile fire. Our armed forces are experiencing the horrors of war, and some are losing their lives.

Every Religious Ministry Team must be ready to support Sailors and Marines returning from the front lines. We must be ready to help them return home to their families and friends. Deployed personnel in operational and combat environments need the opportunity to process their high-intensity experiences in order too preserve and enhance their mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.

As part of this re-entry process, Chaplain Black and I have asked our CREDO team to devise a *Mobile CREDO Experience* for Marines and Sailors returning from the front lines in our Nation's war on terrorism. The *Mobile CREDO Experience* incorporates a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) model, but it goes far beyond CISM. CREDO chaplains complement and complete that support by providing spiritual readiness that assists "warrior transformation" for re-entry into normal life and society. As a pilot program, Marines from two of our Marine Expeditionary Units will benefit from this unique initiative.

Let us pray for those who are returning home to their families and friends. But let us also continue to pray for those who continue to fight for the freedom our Nation enjoys.


LOUIS V. IASIELLO
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